

**CLAIMS**

**What is claimed is:**

1           1. A fishing net and flashlight combination, comprising:  
2           a tubular handle;  
3           an annular ring attached to an end of the tubular handle, the ring having a netting  
4 material attached thereto; and  
5           a flashlight attached to the tubular handle and positioned to direct a light beam  
6 toward the ring to facilitate landing fish in low light conditions.

1           2. The fishing net and flashlight combination according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 flashlight is attached to the fishing net by a flashlight holder, and wherein the flashlight  
3 holder comprises a first resilient clamp assembly that clamps over the tubular handle of  
4 the fishing net, and a structure for securing the flashlight to the flashlight holder.

1           3. The fishing net and flashlight combination according to claim 2, wherein the  
2 first resilient clamp assembly comprises a pair of opposing side sections having arcuate  
3 inner surfaces that accomodate an outer surface of the tubular handle of the fishing net,  
4 the side sections being resiliently urged toward each other to clamp against the outer  
5 surface of the tubular handle and secure the flashlight holder to the tubular handle.

1           4. The fishing net and flashlight combination according to claim 3, wherein the  
2 side sections have flared outer ends that define an opening along a length of the first

3 clamp assembly between the opposing side sections to allow the first clamp assembly to  
4 be snapped onto the tubular handle.

1 5. The fishing net and flashlight combination according to claim 2, wherein the  
2 structure for securing the flashlight holder to the flashlight comprises a second resilient  
3 clamp assembly that clamps over a housing of the flashlight.

1 6. The fishing net and flashlight combination according to claim 5, wherein the  
2 second resilient clamp assembly has substantially the same structure as the first resilient  
3 clamp assembly.

1 7. The fishing net and flashlight combination according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 flashlight is attached to the tubular handle of the fishing net by a flashlight holder, and  
3 said flashlight holder comprises a resilient clamp assembly formed of flexible plastic.

1 8. The fishing net and flashlight combination according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 flashlight has a housing and a flashlight holder which is permanently attached to or  
3 integral with the housing, and the flashlight holder comprises a resilient clamp assembly  
4 that clamps over the tubular handle of the fishing net.

1 9. The fishing net and flashlight combination according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 flashlight is attached to the fishing net by a flashlight holder, and wherein the flashlight  
3 holder comprises a resilient clamp assembly that clamps over the tubular handle of the

4 fishing net, said resilient clamp assembly comprising a pair of opposing side sections, a  
5 notch formed in each of the opposing side sections, and a safety strap extending through  
6 the notches and around the tubular handle to ensure the flashlight holder does not become  
7 detached inadvertently from the tubular handle.

1 10. A flashlight holder for attaching a flashlight to a fishing net, comprising:  
2 a base;  
3 a means on one side of the base for securing the flashlight holder to a tubular  
4 housing of a flashlight; and  
5 a first resilient clamp assembly on another side of the base for attaching the  
6 flashlight holder to a tubular handle of a fishing net, said resilient clamp assembly  
7 comprising a pair of opposing side sections having arcuate inner surfaces that  
8 accomodate an outer surface of the tubular handle of the fishing net, the side sections  
9 being resiliently urged toward each other to clamp against the outer surface of the tubular  
10 handle and secure the flashlight holder to the tubular handle.

1 11. The flashlight holder according to claim 10, wherein the side sections have  
2 flared outer ends that define an opening along a length of the resilient clamp assembly  
3 between the opposing side sections to allow the resilient clamp assembly to be snapped  
4 onto a tubular handle of a fishing net.

1 12. The flashlight holder according to claim 10, wherein said means for securing  
2 the flashlight holder to the flashlight comprises a second resilient clamp assembly that

3 clamps over a housing of the flashlight.

1 13. The flashlight holder according to claim 12, wherein the second resilient  
2 clamp assembly has substantially the same structure as the first resilient clamp assembly.

1 14. The flashlight holder according to claim 10, wherein the first resilient clamp  
2 assembly is formed of flexible plastic.

1 15. The flashlight holder according to claim 10, further comprising a notch  
2 formed in each of the opposing side sections, and a safety strap extending through the  
3 notches and around the tubular handle to ensure the flashlight holder does not become  
4 detached inadvertently from the tubular handle.

1 16. The flashlight holder according to claim 10, wherein said means for securing  
2 the flashlight holder to the flashlight comprises an adhesive that secures the base of the  
3 flashlight holder to the housing of the flashlight.

1 17. The flashlight holder according to claim 10, wherein said means for securing  
2 the flashlight holder to the flashlight comprises the base of the flashlight holder being  
3 formed integral with the housing of the flashlight.

1 18. A fishing net for use at night, comprising:  
2 a tubular handle having a first end and a second end;

3 an annular ring attached to the first end of the tubular handle, the ring having a  
4 netting material attached thereto;

5 a flashlight removably attached to the tubular handle between the first and second  
6 ends of the handle, the flashlight being positioned to direct a light beam toward the first  
7 end of the handle to facilitate use of the fishing net in low light conditions.

1 19. The fishing net according to claim 18, wherein the flashlight is attached to  
2 the fishing net by a first resilient clamp assembly formed of flexible plastic that clamps  
3 over the tubular handle of the fishing net, the first resilient clamp assembly comprising a  
4 generally tubular sleeve having an opening along one side that allows the tubular  
5 structure to expand and snap over the outer surface of the tubular handle of the fishing  
6 net.

1 20. The fishing net according to claim 18, wherein the flashlight is attached to  
2 the fishing net by a flashlight holder, and wherein the flashlight holder comprises a  
3 resilient clamp assembly that clamps over the tubular handle of the fishing net, said  
4 resilient clamp assembly comprising a generally tubular sleeve having an opening along  
5 one side that allows the tubular structure to expand and snap over the outer surface of the  
6 tubular handle of the fishing net, a pair of notches formed in the tubular sleeve, and a  
7 safety strap extending through the notches and around the tubular handle to ensure the  
8 flashlight holder does not become detached inadvertently from the tubular handle of the  
9 fishing net.